

**In the Claims:**

1. (currently amended). An isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein capable of binding to histamine or serotonin with a dissociation constant of less than  $10^{-7}$ M and which has a binding site comprising amino acid residues[[,]] isoleucine at position I, tryptophan at position II, ~~and~~ aspartate at position III and glutamate at position IV wherein residues I to IV are positioned at residues 139, 71, 67 and 112 in SEQ. ID. NO: 4 or are positioned in a functionally equivalent complementarity of shape.

2-3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented). An isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein according to claim 1 additionally comprising at residue V, a tyrosine residue, wherein residue V is positioned at residue 131 in SEQ ID NO: 4.

5. (canceled).

6. (previously presented). An isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein according to claim 1 wherein said protein is stabilised by either or both of the disulphide bridges formed between cysteines 179 and 151 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

7-9. (canceled).

10. (previously presented). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein of claim 1 that comprises a synthetic protein.

11-17. (canceled).

18. (previously presented). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein of claim 1 produced by recombinant DNA technology.

19-20. (canceled).

21. (previously presented). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein of claim 1 that is derived from blood-feeding ectoparasites, spiders, scorpions or snakes and venomous animals.

22. (previously presented). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein of claim 21 that is derived from ticks.

23. (previously presented). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein of claim 22 that is derived from Ixodid ticks.

24. (previously presented). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein of claim 23 that is derived from *Rhipicephalus appendiculatus*, *D. reticulatus*, *Amblyomma variegatum*, *Boophilus microplus* or *Ixodes hexagonus*.

25-28. (canceled).

29. (previously presented). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein of claim 1 that is bound to a support.

30. (currently amended). A ~~therapeutic or diagnostic~~ composition comprising an isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein according to claim 1.

31. (currently amended). A ~~therapeutic or diagnostic~~ composition according to claim 30 additionally comprising serotonin.

32. (currently amended). A ~~therapeutic or diagnostic~~ composition according to claim 31 additionally comprising a cysteinyl leukotriene, ~~platelet activating factor, or a thromboxane~~.

33. (canceled).

34. (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a disease condition related to a vasoactive amine, wherein said disease condition is allergic asthma, said method comprising administering an isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein according to claim 1 to a human or animal, wherein said administering treats or prevents said disease condition.

35-53. (canceled).